



# Constitutional Review and Democratic Consolidation in Uganda: An Ethnographic Inquiry

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**Published:** 13 November 2010 | **Received:** 22 June 2010 | **Accepted:** 27 September 2010

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18916725](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18916725)

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## Abstract

Uganda's recent constitutional review process has been a focal point of interest in both academic and policy circles as it aims to consolidate democratic governance. The study employs an ethnographic approach, utilising participant observation, interviews, and document analysis to gather data from various sectors within Ugandan society. The research participants include representatives from the Constitutional Review Commission, opposition parties, civil rights groups, and community leaders across different regions of Uganda. The review process has revealed a significant trend towards decentralization in governance structures, with a notable increase (over 20%) in local government powers compared to previous constitutions. This shift is viewed positively by many as enhancing accountability and responsiveness at the grassroots level. While the constitutional review has brought about positive changes in governance, challenges remain in terms of implementation and public engagement. The study highlights the importance of inclusive dialogue and community participation for successful democratic consolidation. The government should prioritise ongoing consultations with all sectors of society to ensure that the new constitution is not only well-intentioned but also widely supported. Additionally, policies aimed at strengthening local governance structures must be robust and sustainable.

**Keywords:** *Ethnicity, Community, Power Dynamics, Social Capital, Authoritative Networks, Legal Pluralism, Indigenization*

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